

DD/S

50-4189

DEC 7 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

SUBJECT : Proposed CIA Club at Langley

REFERENCE : Memorandum for the Record dtd 16 Nov 56 fr IG,
subj: "CIA Club at Langley"

1. Each ID/S Office Head and Staff Chief has submitted his professional and personal opinion of the proposed Club at a round-table discussion. The following is a summary of their comments for your consideration.

a. Concessions: There was unanimous agreement as to the need for essential concessions, such as a bank, barber and beauty shops, post office and drugstore because of our distance from such facilities. However, some were of the opinion that local merchants who have strongly supported our selection of this site might object to such competition with local business.

b. Club: While most of those present agreed that some facilities for group entertainment would be a good idea, as contrasted with present gatherings in public restaurants or homes, a number of questions were raised and problems brought up:

(1) As to membership, it was pointed out that if all employees were invited to join, which would appear to be desirable, there might be several thousand employees and dependents expecting to avail themselves of this facility. If only moderate sized entertainment facilities were provided, the demand might prove much greater than such facilities could accommodate. On the other hand, some of those present believed that our employees' residences are so scattered over a large area that active participation would be reduced to nearby residents and single people looking for a social outlet. The question of the social mingling of personnel of the overt and covert offices was also brought up.

(2) As to the suggested financing, it was not believed that sufficient income could be anticipated to meet the costs of financing (maintenance, interest and debt reduction) that a building of this size would require. The sliding scale of

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By: OT

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initial assessment was not deemed equitable, as facilities would be equal for all. There was also serious question as to whether any financial institution would lend money secured by a building on Government property, in view of lack of foreclosure rights.

(3) As to the provision of facilities for golf, swimming, tennis, etc., doubt was expressed as to whether these should be even considered at this time. To accommodate the size membership anticipated, which might run into thousands, experience at local country clubs indicates that such facilities would have to be far greater than would be desirable. It is also doubtful whether there is even now adequate space at the site to accommodate a Club. Serious question was also expressed regarding the supervision of the conduct of personnel at a recreational facility located on Government property.

(4) It was felt that such a Club might well be damaging from a public relations standpoint, because there would undoubtedly be unfavorable press comment to the effect that the Club was supported by Confidential Funds.

(5) In general, the experiences of military officers clubs have revealed innumerable problems and headaches which would be even greater in such a large organization as we might expect in this Club.

2. Personally, I believe this project is too ambitious. I believe the public relations aspects and the lack of available land are the most formidable problems. Because of the scattered residences of employees and the very nature of their work, I am not in favor of establishing at this time a centralized facility for social functions. I cannot envision a Club adequate to accommodate even a small employee participation by the thousands of people to whom it would be extended. I recommend that a very thorough analysis of all the problems be made before publicizing this proposal too far.

/s/
L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)

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